

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

Deborah J Schierholt,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 2:22-cv-3061

v.

Judge Michael H. Watson

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co.,

Magistrate Judge Jolson

Defendant.

OPINION AND ORDER

Defendant moves for judgment on the pleadings. ECF No. 7. In support of its motion, Defendant has filed a contract. ECF No. 7-1. Significant portions of that contract are redacted. *Id.*


There is a “strong presumption in favor of openness as to court records.” *Shane Grp., Inc. v. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mich.*, 825 F.3d 299, 305 (6th Cir. 2016) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). As the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has explained,

[t]he burden of overcoming that presumption [of openness] is borne by the party that seeks to seal [the records]. *In re Cendant Corp.*, 260 F.3d 183, 194 (3d Cir. 2001). The burden is a heavy one: “Only the most compelling reasons can justify non-disclosure of judicial records.” *In re Knoxville News-Sentinel Co.*, 723 F.2d 470, 476 (6th Cir. 1983) . . . And even where a party can show a compelling reason why certain documents or portions thereof should be sealed, the seal itself must be narrowly tailored to serve that reason. *See, e.g., Press-Enter. Co. v. Superior Court of California, Riverside Cnty.*, 464 U.S. 501, 509–10, 104 S. Ct. 819, 78 L.Ed. 2d 629 (1984).

Id. This reasoning also applies to redactions. See *Abraham, Inc. v. United States*, No. 2:18-CV-1306, 2020 WL 8816135, at *1 (S.D. Ohio Dec. 1, 2020) (internal citations omitted).

Accordingly, the Defendant is **ORDERED** to file an unredacted version of ECF No. 7-1 **within fourteen days**. The parties are **DIRECTED** to review their filings for any other redactions and, if they find any, to file unredacted versions of such documents **within fourteen days**. In the alternative, any party wishing to file a document under seal may move for leave to do so, with a properly supported motion, **within fourteen days**. In the event the Court grants a motion to seal, the filing party must file a publicly available redacted copy of the sealed document along with an unredacted version under seal.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



MICHAEL H. WATSON, JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT